



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**BRONX RESIDENT ACCUSED BY U.S. OF ILLEGALLY COLLECTING FUNDS
TO LIVE IN LOWER MANHATTAN AFTER THE 2001 TERROR ATTACKS**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOBIM ROSE, 34, a resident of the Bronx, was arrested and charged today with theft of government money and mail fraud in connection with a scheme to defraud the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of federal grant money made available after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to assist in the revitalization of Lower Manhattan.

A two-count criminal Complaint, unsealed today in Manhattan federal court, charges that ROSE devised a scheme to fraudulently obtain money from grant programs established by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation to retain and attract residents to Lower Manhattan. As the Complaint states, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) was created by the State and City of New York after terrorist attacks to coordinate the

rebuilding and revitalization of Lower Manhattan, defined as the area south of Houston Street. To further this goal, the LMDC received HUD grant money to fund September 11, 2001 Residents Grants, and a Two-Year Commitment-Based Grant program. September 11, 2001 Residents Grants were paid to eligible individuals who lived in one of three designated zones in Lower Manhattan on September 11, 2001. The Two-Year Commitment-Based Grant program provides money to eligible individuals who make a two-year commitment to live in one of the three designated zones in Lower Manhattan.

According to the Complaint, on September 24, 2002, ROSE filled out and submitted an application to the LMDC for a September 11, 2001 Residents Grant and a Two-Year Commitment-Based Grant. It is alleged that in this application and according to the terms of the grants, ROSE certified that he was living at 310 Greenwich Street in Lower Manhattan on September 11, 2001, and that he currently lived and intended to live at that address for two years.

The Complaint alleges that LMDC later approved ROSE's application, which made ROSE eligible to receive a one-time grant of \$1,000 and \$179.85 per month in grant money over the two-year period he promised to live at 310 Greenwich Street, for a total grant of \$5,316. As of the date of his arrest, ROSE had received \$4,417.15 of this grant money.

Nonetheless, the Complaint alleges that ROSE was not living at 310 Greenwich Street on September 11, 2001, or at any

time thereafter, but rather was renting the apartment to another individual. The Complaint alleges that ROSE owns a cooperative apartment in the Bronx, where he was arrested today.

If convicted of all of the charges in the Complaint, ROSE faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 and a fine on each count of \$250,000.

Mr. COMEY praised the investigative efforts and cooperation of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, the Office of the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and New York City Department of Investigation - Office of Inspector General HPD.

Assistant United States Attorney WILLIAM KOMAROFF is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges in the Complaint are merely allegations, and the defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty.